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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
09/552,705	04/19/00	CHEN	S 2124-311

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HM12/1108

EXAMINER

BRUNOVSKIS, P

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
1632	5

DATE MAILED:

11/08/00

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/552,705	Applicant(s) Chen et al.
	Examiner Peter Brunovskis	Group Art Unit 1632

Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____

This action is FINAL.

Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle 835 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 1 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claim

Claim(s) 1-52 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.

Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

Claims 1-52 are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is approved disapproved.

The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

All Some* None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been received.

received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.

received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____

Interview Summary, PTO-413

Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

--- SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES ---

Art Unit: 1632

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restriction

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 1-24, drawn to a method of screening a chemical for its ability to enhance binding of a co-regulatory protein to an ligand binding domain, classified in class 435, subclass 29.
- II. Claims 25-33, drawn to a method of screening a test chemical to determine if it has activity similar to a known chemical, classified in class 435, subclass 29.
- III. Claims 34-42, drawn to a method of determining a concentration of a ligand or a hormone in a tissue sample, classified in class 435, subclass 29.
- IV. Claims 43-52, drawn to a method of screening for a protein which interacts with a chemical, classified in class 435, subclass 29.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Although there are no provisions under the section for "Relationship of Inventions" in MPEP 806.05 for inventive groups that are directed to different methods, restriction is deemed to be proper between the methods of groups I-IV, because these methods constitute patentably distinct inventions requiring different goals, methodologies, products, and technical considerations.

Art Unit: 1632

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, and the search required for Group I is not required for Groups II-IV and vice versa , restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

This application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct combination of species of the claimed invention:

- (1) a specific co-regulatory protein
- (2) a specific nuclear receptor or nuclear receptor binding domain
- (3) a specific ligand or hormone

or

no ligand or hormone.

Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed combination of species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. Applicant must elect a single *specific* species from each of (1), (2) and (3) above. For example, a co-regulatory protein comprising PNRC, a nuclear receptor binding domain comprising ER, and a ligand or hormone comprising estradiol. Currently, claims 1-52 are generic.

Applicant is advised that a reply to this requirement must include an identification of the species that is elected consonant with this requirement, and a listing of all claims readable thereon,

Art Unit: 1632

including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered nonresponsive unless accompanied by an election.

Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. MPEP § 809.02(a).

Should applicant traverse on the ground that the species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of the other invention.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a petition under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Art Unit: 1632

Certain papers related to this application may be submitted to Art Unit 1632 by facsimile transmission. The FAX number is (703) 308-4242 or 305-3014. The faxing of such papers must conform with the notices published in the Official Gazette, 1156 OG 61 (November 16, 1993) and 1157 OG 94 (December 28, 1993) (see 37 CFR 1.6(d)). NOTE: If applicant *does* submit a paper by FAX, the original copy should be retained by applicant or applicant's representative. NO DUPLICATE COPIES SHOULD BE SUBMITTED, so as to avoid the processing of duplicate papers in the Office.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Peter Brunovskis whose telephone number is (703) 305-2471. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM to 5 PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Karen Hauda can be reached at (703) 305-6608.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Patent Analyst, Patsy Zimmerman whose telephone number is (703) 308-8338.

Peter Brunovskis, Ph.D.
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 1632

Scott D. Priebe
SCOTT D. PRIEBE, PH.D
PRIMARY EXAMINER